

**PHOENIX FIELD OFFICE  
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)  
COMPLIANCE RECORD FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS (CX)**

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Install 1 swinging gate and 3 temporary cattleguards on the Sonoran Desert National Monument  
**NEPA#** AZ210-05-0053  
**Related #**

**Location of Proposed Action:** T. 7 S., R. 1 W., Sec. 14 NWNE (Freeman Road access into Area A); T. 8 S., R. 1 E., Sec 18 SWSW; T. 8 S., R. 1 E., Sec. 30 SWNW

**Description of Proposed Action:** Installation of 1 permanent, metal, swinging gate and 3 temporary cattleguards to prevent livestock access into the "Area A" portion of the Sonoran Desert National Monument. The swinging, metal, gate will replace an existing wire gate, on Freeman Road, that is repeatedly damaged by smuggler vehicles or left open, potentially allowing livestock into Area A. Two 12-15" diameter holes will be excavated approximately 24-36" deep, and the posts set in concrete, to secure the gate in place. In addition, a temporary cattleguard will be installed at this location, in the event the gate is left open. All projects are needed because the gates are left open, presumably by smugglers, which could allow livestock entry to Area A. The wire gate, at Freeman Road, is repeatedly destroyed, so a steel gate, similar to those already in use at most Area A access points will be installed. The gate is needed to comply with the Proclamation's requirement regarding public access management for Area A.

Two additional temporary cattleguards will be installed at two existing gates on the eastern boundary of Area A to prevent livestock from accessing Area A. All 3 cattleguards will be placed on the road surface, posts driven into the roadbed to hold the cattleguard in place, and soil from the road compacted around them to provide an approach ramp over the cattleguard. There will be no cement base installed. The wing portion of the cattleguards will be attached, by posts, to an existing fence. It is expected that when the current grazing leases on allotments south of Interstate 8 expire, in 2008, all 3 cattleguards will be removed. The swinging gate will remain in place.

**PART I - PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW.** This proposed action is subject to the following land use plan: *Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan (Goldwater Amendment)*. Eliminate all trespass grazing by livestock (cattle), goats and burros and construct fences where trespass is a problem. Page 10. Date approved: 11-13-90. This proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5-3, BLM Manual 1601.04.C.2). The proposed action also complies with Interim Management Policy (new facilities may be considered if they protect monument resources).

**PART II - CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION**

**A. Verification of Listing:** This proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under Department Manual (DM) 516 DM 2, Appendix 1 NA (CX#) OR 516 DM 6, Appendix 5.4. G CX 2).

And

**B. Exception Review:** 516 DM 2, Appendix 2 provides for the review of the following criteria to determine if exceptions apply to this project.

**IMPORTANT:** Appropriate staff should determine exception, comment and initial for concurrence. If exceptions apply to the action or project, and existing NEPA documentation does not address the exception, then further NEPA analysis is required.

CRITERIA	COMMENT (yes/no)	STAFF INITIAL
1. Has significant adverse effects on public health and safety.	No	
2. Adversely affects unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources, parks, recreation or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, wild and scenic rivers, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, flood plains, or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the Department of the Interior National Register of Natural Landmarks.	No	
3. Has highly controversial environmental effects.	No	
4. Has highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involves unique or unknown environmental risks.	No	

